

THE

Purple Hills Arts and Heritage Society

# Grapevine



## President's Message



This Grapevine marks the beginning of the height of summer. Traditionally we Canadians make a special effort in July and August to kick back and relax whenever we can. Likewise, the Purple Hills board is taking a break until our next meeting in early September.

At the June meeting we welcomed Suzanne Steeves as our newest director. She is owner of the Maplestone Gallery and as a former television network executive she brings a whole lot of creative energy to the table. Suzanne is filling a vacancy on our board left by Bob Pegg who has moved to Bayfield. We thank Bob for his help and wish him well.

It has been a chock-a-block spring for your Society: The Lobster Dinner, the Pathways to the Past, Walking Tour, and the Garden Tour. These events take teamwork, planning and hard work, so I thank all of you who made them so successful.

As an organization, we continue to manage our finances well, raising money from events and membership fees on one hand, and disbursing money to support the arts and preserve the heritage of our area on the other.

Although the Board does not meet again until September, the executive members do albeit in a less formal way. Already we are doing final planning for this Fall, and beginning to think about 2011. For example we have just completed a comprehensive Checklist to help anyone setting up a bar at our events. Mundane perhaps, but invaluable in making sure things get done right each and every time.

Enjoy your summer, stay in touch with us, and keep supporting your PHAHS please!

Sincerely,  
Jim McPherson

## Mark Your Calendars

**Saturday and Sunday**  
**September 26, 27**  
*Purple Hills Studio Tour*

**Saturday and Sunday**  
**October 16, 17**  
*Creemore Mocks! Film Festival*

## Where Our Money Goes

In the last six months we have given out the following donations (totaling \$12,500) to worthy causes and organizations:

- \$5,000 to The Creemore Log Cabin Trust for the 2010 rebuilding program
- \$2,000 to The Station on the Green in support of the sound system upgrade initiative
- \$1,000 to the Mad & Noisy Gallery for sponsorship of the CreemoreCentric III Show
- \$750 to St Luke's Gift of Music for the hosting of their music program series
- \$500 to the Teddy Bear's Picnic to purchase two easels and a musical instrument set
- \$500 to the Nottawasaga and Creemore Public School to fund a 2-week springtime art program
- \$750 to the Creemore Tree Committee to preserve the Black Oak trees in Gowan Park
- \$500 to community events such as the Santa Claus Parade, Torch Relay, Canada Day
- \$1,000 to Stayner Collegiate for student awards in history and the arts
- \$500 to the Nottawasaga and Creemore Public School for student awards in history or the arts

### What's inside this issue

2

The Fall  
Studio Tour

3

Creemore  
Mocks

4

Heritage  
Corner



# Grey Skies, Green Thumbs



*O*n a grey and damp Saturday morning in June, several hundred people ventured out to a garden tour of wonder and delight. Clad in rain boots and clutching umbrellas they set off for the hills of Mulumur and fanned out through the streets of Creemore.

Nine beautiful gardens were on show, each one different from the others. Some featured riverbeds, ponds and waterfalls, others had perennial beds laden with delphiniums, veronicas and lilies. Annual baskets overflowing with begonias, potato vine, geraniums and lobelia were placed on patios and hung from balconies. There were heritage tomatoes and weird plants like cardoon and Egyptian onions, well loved old-fashioned peonies, and hostas of every variety from the gigantic to the slender "praying hands."

Later in the afternoon when the clouds had lifted, the scent of roses wafted on the air, and pond-side plantings reflected in the water. In several gardens the experience was enhanced by the melodious sounds of the classical and jazz musicians who complemented the settings with their sensitive playing.



Many comments were heard: imaginative, unusual, tranquil, magnificent, daring, ... and, "Could we do that in our garden?"

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make this special day run smoothly, and a special thank you to all the home owners who allowed us to have a glimpse into their exquisite gardens.

– *Kate Fleming*

*(At press time the final numbers were still being tallied but organizers estimate that about 330 intrepid garden lovers enjoyed our wonderful tour.)*

## A Painter's Dozen



Jordan Menicucci



Kai-Liis McInnes

*T*he Purple Hills Studio Tour 2010 is ready for another great event. This year, 42 artists will present their artwork for the public's viewing pleasure. With its renewed focus on "Studio" and "Tour," there will be 19 Studios with 21 Guests accompanied by individuals at the Creemore Library and the Curiosity House Book Store and Gallery.

We are happy to welcome several new participants to the Tour



Debra Burrowes



Kate Esplen



Jim Stacey



Jenn Wilkins

## Lobster Dinner

Sold out again this year, over 100 people sat down to a spectacular lobster dinner at the Station on the Green at the end of May. The event, which was a huge success, raised over \$2,500 for the Society. Thank you to all the people who made this evening happen.

this year. Namely, Kai-Liis McInnes, Kate Esplen, Taylor Ledden, Jim Stacey, Jenn Wilkins, Suzanne Steeves, Jordan Menicucci, MK Lynde, Juliet Jancso and Debra Burrowes.

We know that these artists will bring a breath of fresh air to our Studio Tour which has been active for more than two decades. Brochures for the Tour will be available in early July at many locations throughout our area.



# Creemore Mocks!

Just three months left to get your ideas into action for the fourth annual Creemore Mocks! It sounds like a lot of time but the October entry deadline will be here before you know it. So let's get going! Right Paul? (Vorstermans, that is.)

Sara Hershoff and her Mocks! committee have come up with a slightly different format from previous years. We'll be holding the same absolutely fabulous gala ceremony on Saturday, October 16 at Station on the Green – the noisiest, funniest party of the season for sure: raucous music, great food, incomparable beer and a lineup of utterly hilarious mockumentaries. But if the nightlife is too much for you, you'll be able to see the films in the afternoon on Saturday beginning at 1 pm at the Station.

And, as an exclusive feature for PHAHS members and guests only, we will be holding a CELEBRITY CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH and screening on Sunday, October 17.

You'll be able to watch the films at your leisure while enjoying bubbly and gourmet mac and cheese. And NO LOUD ROCK MUSIC! Soooo civilized. AND you'll get to vote on the prestigious Audience Choice Award. Tickets are \$30.

But what we really want you to do is... MAKE A MOVIE! Admission to everything is FREE if you are an exhibitor.

Here are some important dates and deadlines for your inner cineaste to remember:



**Saturday, October 2:**  
Movie submission deadline.

**Saturday, October 16:**  
1:00 pm The People's Free Screening.

6:30 pm Gala party.  
Tickets \$20.00.

**Sunday, October 17:**  
11:30 am Celebrity Champagne Brunch and screening. Tickets \$30.00.

Tickets for all Mocks events go on sale Saturday, September 25 at the Market.

## Pathways to the Past Report

On Sunday morning, June 6, it was pouring rain! By noon, the rain had stopped. By 1 pm, when the "walkers" gathered at the Station to begin their trek through Creemore's past, the sky was blue and the temperature balmy. A perfect day for a walk. Three enthusiastic groups set off, each with their own tour leaders showing the way. In chronological order, they stopped at the top of Collingwood Street just below the Reservoir where Pat Raible talked about the Petun Indian encampment and the early visit of Samuel Champlain. Paul Vorstermans was waiting at Mad River Park to describe the early settlement of a homestead and mill across the Mad River. At the old school, Helen Blackburn told anecdotal tales of the early days of teaching the town's children. Sitting comfortably outside the old jail, Jim McPherson described the coming of the railway to Creemore and the influence it had on the town's development. The last stop in time was in front of the Curiosity House Bookstore across from the Creemore Springs Brewery where Gail Caswell brought the story of Creemore up to the present day. The walk finished back at the Station where there were plates of delicious goodies waiting along with tea and cold drinks for all the tired "walkers." Chris Raible summed up this historical tour for us and also fielded many questions.

The "interpreters" put a lot of time and research into their talks. Pat Raible (466-2261) and Gail Caswell (466-5742) have written detailed notes on their subjects if you would like copies.



## The Leighton Farm Project

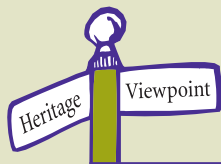
Dufferin County Museum  
September 12, 2010 to Sunday,  
November 14, 2010

The Dufferin County Museum and Archives is proud to present this unique art exhibit by Creemore-area artist Peter Adams. Recipient of the Reed T. Cooper bursary and an Ontario Arts Council grant for this project, Peter will be exhibiting a series of paintings and photographs of an abandoned farmhouse that sits proudly on Mulmur Township's 2nd Concession.

Like so many modest Ontario Gothic homes of the area, this house has had a long and colourful history, though it will likely face demolition once the property is sold. A favourite subject of many painters and photographers, the house has lured Peter to paint it many times over the last 12 years.

The artist will be showing his original paintings of the structure as well as photographs of many of the people who once called it home. Through the eyes of an artist, this house makes a captivating subject in all seasons, but it's tragic story is all too familiar to those that have driven the back roads of Dufferin County. This exhibit is both a celebration of a past way of life and the people that lived it, and a contemplation of one of life's most familiar realities ...change.





Go south on Collingwood Street over the river and up the hill. To your left is the entrance to the cemetery. On the north side, amidst other gravestones, a white slab marks Creemore's first known burial:

"Elizabeth Ann, wife of Edward Webster, daughter of Rev. Francis and Elizabeth Gemayne, died February 2 ... aged 26 years, 2 months and 15 days" Not far from her lies:

"Catherine McArthur, wife of Daniel McArthur, died March 14 ... age 25, years," also her "son, Neil died May 20 ... age 3 months." These three, and perhaps others, all died and were buried that winter and spring of 1853. That year Creemore's founder, Edward Webster, gave the hill to the village as the site for both a cemetery and a church. The road into the cemetery was for many years called "Church Street" because the first St. Luke's Church was erected there in 1854. (A recently placed stone marks the site). At first the Church operated the graveyard, but in the 1870s it became the Union Cemetery when Presbyterians, Methodists and Baptists assumed joint responsibility with the Anglicans – differing in life, uniting in death.

In the course of a century and a half, the cemetery area has gradually grown to cover these slopes with hundreds, now thousands of graves. A walk around, offers the opportunity to reflect on how much we collectively owe those who lived and died here before us.

In 1984 volunteer Simcoe County Genealogists carefully transcribed all the cemetery's markers and records (a copy is in the Creemore library). The cemetery hill, according to the genealogists, has "one desirable feature: at any season of the year it is bone dry."

*Chris Raible*

## Welcome new members!

Charles and Lani Moses, Toronto	Evelyn Downie, Creemore	Freida Linke, Stayner
Hilton and Barbara Tudhope, Texas	Debra Burrowes, Mississauga	Inese Bite, Toronto
John and Judy Fuke, Toronto	James Stacey, Collingwood	MK Lynde, Creemore
Jordan Menicucci, Creemore	Kathryn Lescurd, Duntroon	Taylor Ledden, Wyeville
Jennifer Wilkins, Collingwood	Kate Esplen, Owen Sound	Jim Leitherd, Creemore

## PHAHS Bulletin Board

The Mad & Noisy Gallery is pleased to offer 19 exciting workshops on a wide variety of art related subjects: printmaking, painting, bookbinding, music, photography, glass, ceramics, papermaking, music. The workshops will be lead by well known, local artists: John David Anderson, Frith Bail, Eleanor Brownridge, Bryan Davies, Liz Eakins, Roy Hickling, Mark Hope, Kai-Lis McInnes, Sue Miller, Caroline Routh. The workshops began last April and continue through to November. For full information go to [www.madandnoisy.com](http://www.madandnoisy.com) and follow workshop links, or drop by the gallery and pick up a brochure.

## Upcoming Shows



**July 3 – 26**  
Dave Scott, John Wiggins,  
Ray Kundinger  
Recent Watercolours

**July 31 - August 23**  
"Locavore"  
Group show

**August 28 - September 20**  
Roy Hickling  
Painting and sculpture

**October 2 – 25**  
Sue Miller & Ann Clifford  
Painting and sculpture

**November 6 – 29**  
Frith Bail & Paulette Dennis  
Ceramics and work on  
paper

**December 4 - January 3**  
Liz Eakins &  
Andrea Mueller  
Printmaking and jewellery



**July 3 – 30**  
Jody Buda/Bowle-Evans  
Opening Reception  
Saturday, July 3,  
2 pm – 4 pm

**July 31 – September 3**  
Johane Landry  
Opening Reception  
Saturday, July 31,  
2 pm – 4 pm

**September 4 – October 1**  
Kate Esplin  
Opening Reception  
Saturday, September 4,  
2 pm – 4 pm

**October 2 – November 5**  
Darla Anderson  
Opening Reception  
Saturday, Oct. 2,  
2 pm – 4 pm



**July 2 - August 15**  
"Oh Canada"  
Featuring the work of 17  
Canadian contemporary  
mosaic artists

**August 16 - September 2**  
Group show with a focus  
on abstract mosaic art

**September 3 - October 15**  
"Smaller is..."  
Smaller works of  
contemporary mosaic  
art featuring both local  
and international artists.

**September 26 & 27**  
Latest mosaic art by  
Suzanne Steeves



### Masthead

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